

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
TOPIC	Military Information from Grimma		
EVALUATION		PLACE OBTAINED	25X1
DATE OF CONTENT			
DATE OBTAINED	4 February 1953		25X1
REFERENCES			
PAGES	2	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	25X1
REMARKS			
This is UNEVALUATED Information			

1. On 12 January 1953, the Strasburg Kaserne on the south side of Leipziger Strasse and opposite the Gerichtsweg, Grimma, was occupied to capacity by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. All barracks buildings were lighted after nightfall. On 8 January, two motor vehicles, occupied by a total of about 40 troops, left the installation. 25X1
2. On 12 January, the Elsner Kaserne on Franz Mehring Strasse was occupied to capacity by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. All barracks buildings were lighted at dusk. On 5 January, about 23 soldiers were constructing field fortifications and emplacing four 76.2-mm AT guns in the meadows just east of the installation. i.e. between Franz Mehring Strasse and the railroad embankment. 25X1
3. On 12 January, intensive activity was observed in the NAGEMA installation at 8 Franz Mehring Strasse. At about 9 a.m. on 9 January, a large gasoline tank with a capacity of about 180 hectoliter was being buried in the area just east of Franz Mehring Strasse, about in line with the wall between the Elsner Kaserne and the NAGEMA, amidst the homes.
4. On 5 January, the guardhouse at the Otterwisch tank firing area, about 9 km east of Grimma, was occupied by 12 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. Five T-34/85 tanks were seen in the training area. At about 8 a.m. on 10 January, about 400 troops received instruction on 8 T-34/85 tanks in the training area. Firing with live ammunition was practiced with three tanks, while aiming practice was performed on the others. At about 8:15 a.m. truck C 7-51-58, occupied by 14 officers wearing red-bordered golden epaulets, mostly with tank insignia, arrived at the training area. 25X1
5. On 10 January, the Strasburg Kaserne was occupied by about 2,000 troops. Sentries observed wore red-bordered black epaulets. On 2 January, all barracks buildings were lighted at dusk. About 200 soldiers received individual training and training in firing in the barracks installation, and about 80 to 100 soldiers engaged in field training in the area north of the installation. On 9 January, 12 recruits, led by a technical sergeant who wore tank insignia, and carrying full field pack entered the installation, coming from the direction

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

395

SECRET/

- 2 -

25X1

of the town. Cross-country vehicle [redacted] occupied by six officers who wore tank insignia left the installation toward Leipzig.

25X1

6. On 10 January, the Elsner Kaserne was occupied by about 1,000 to 1,200 troops. All barracks buildings were lighted after nightfall. Sentries observed wore red-bordered black epaulets. On 2 January, about 150 troops practiced formation drill and about 30 to 35 engaged in training in firing in the barracks installation. Ten trucks [redacted] were being maintained. At about 5 p.m., 35 soldiers armed with small arms and carrying entrenching tools returned to the installation from a field exercise, coming from the south. On 9 January, about 250 troops were seen at formation drill and training in firing in the installation. An armored scout car was also seen. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

7. On 4 January, the Strasburg Kaserne was occupied by about 1,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank, artillery and motor transport insignia. On 28 December, about 60 officers, mostly lieutenants and senior lieutenants with artillery insignia, entered the installation. [redacted] they had attended instruction courses at the Club. [redacted]

25X1

8. On 4 January, the east section of the Elsner Kaserne on Franz Mehring Strasse was occupied by about 300 troops, including about 150 men belonging to the signal unit. On 21 December, about 150 soldiers entered the installation, coming from the Club. They broke ranks in front of one of the barracks buildings. On 4 January, about 100 troops marched from the Club to the installation.

Comment. The information in paragraph 7 of the present report confirms the unidentified signal battalion of the 8th Gds Mecz Div, except for elements employed at the NAGEMA in the Elsner Kaserne until 4 January 1953. The report fails to give any indications for the other elements of the 8th Gds Mecz Div carried in Grima. [redacted]. The 21st Gds Mecz Regt possibly is distributed in the two installations. The tanks observed at the Otterwisch training area may belong to the 69th Gds Tank Bn of the 21st Gds Mecz Regt.

25X1

25X1

SECRET